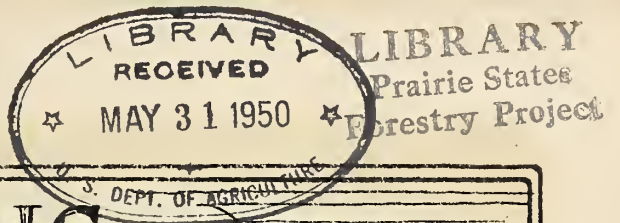


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Vol. 2, No. 8

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ON NEWFANGLED IDEAS

Do you recognize the following statements?

"Much can be done to mitigate the influence of the prairie winds by planting hedges and windbreaks of hardy shrubs and trees. A windbreak 20 feet high will very materially retard the movement of the wind across a belt 15 rods wide. It is a well-known fact that the rate of evaporation increases with an acceleration in the velocity of the wind. A windbreak is a practical appliance for the conservation of the moisture of the soil. A quarter section divided by belts of Russian olive a rod wide into long narrow fields extended lengthwise east and west will yield more crops than the whole 160 acres in cultivation.

".... At least 20 acres more of the quarter section should be devoted to forest plantations arranged in belts along the outer margins and across the center of the farm. The size of a plantation has much to do with its success. A plantation in a narrow strip of one or two rows will have a hard time in competition with the prairie grasses. A belt five or more rods wide will stand many more chances of success than a narrow strip.... Different species in mixtures seem to reciprocate advantages to each other.

"There should be a combined effort for the amelioration of the climate. Hot winds are local in their origin and may be modified or controlled by local conditions. Artificial groves and belts of timber surrounding and crossing every prairie farm, large plantations on the sand hills and other tracts of non-agricultural land, and the extension of the natural belts now in existence, would accomplish much toward controlling hot winds.

".... Instead of sending out of the State for material of a questionable value, we should grow our own seedlings from seed collected within our own borders."

Of course you have heard these statements reiterated a hundred times during the past three years; they form the foundation upon which our fledgling program rests. But the quotations are from an article written by an Assistant Inspector of the old Bureau of Forestry 34 years ago. If the shelterbelt idea was a little too "newfangled" for comfort when we advanced it three years ago, what an addleplate this early forester must have seemed 30 years before.

- E.L.Perry, R.O.

KANSAS OFFICE PARTICIPATES IN A.C.P. CONFERENCE

At the request of the State Committee of the Agricultural Conservation Program, the Kansas organization submitted recommendations for the 1938 Docket which is being prepared in Washington at the present time. Some changes in the maintenance payments were recommended, based on costs which have been secured during the past fiscal year. Also, it is our understanding that only 40 percent of the total payment may be paid for diversion and 60 percent of the payment may be earned under the various practices of the program. This year the percentages were reversed but there is a strong feeling evident in this State that more emphasis must be placed on practices; that is, paying for doing something, rather than on diversion, which in many cases represented an outright gift to the farmer. It was reported to the State Committee by one of our members who had made a study of the matter in the eastern part of the United States, that even more than 60 percent of the payment would probably be made for practices, and a corresponding reduction made in diversion payments. One school of thought in Kansas is to the effect that there should not be any diversion payment.

The Forest Service also suggested the advisability of a practice payment being made for fencing forest trees. This suggestion was made because 70 percent of the woodlands of Kansas are now being pastured by livestock and one of the major trends of land use in this State in the past 25 years has been the conversion of more and more woodland into pasture. It was pointed out to the State Committee and to other officials connected with the program that trees were permanently soil conserving, and where livestock were excluded from the plantations, they were more effective than sod in controlling run-off and erosion. The importance of shelterbelts in controlling wind erosion was stressed in this conference and was presented to the Committee later in letter form.

Recommendations had been previously submitted for the 1938 Range Conservation Program and the special committee drafting such recommendations conferred with the Acting State Director at considerable length concerning desirable recommendations. Hearings on the 1938 Range Program had also been previously held at three points in the State and were attended by Mr. Arrivee, at which time the ranch operators expressed their opinions regarding the practices most needed.

- T.Russell Reitz, Kans.

WE TOO HAVE A FOREST FIRE PROBLEM

One morning early this spring, when I was "selling" strips to co-operators in the Arnold District, a farmer stomped into our office demanding to know of me what recourse in law he had to prevent a highway weed-burning crew from burning a row of trees in the fence line around one of his fields which was flanked by county roads. It required no Pinkerton Agent to see that this man was mad enough to fight anything or anybody, and noticing that he was between me and the door I did not feel that I should make matters worse by exposing my ignorance of any such laws, so I promptly assured him that he had the law on his side in protecting his property. He said, "I didn't rightly know what the law says about it, but law or no law, nobody is going to burn up my trees while I can still pack a shotgun."

When he had cooled off to approximately a cherry red, he told me his troubles. I gathered that after he had cautioned the workers that same morning to let no fires get close to his trees, it seemed they had paid little if any attention to the farmer and forthwith set fire to the dry thistles unmindful of where the weeds had lodged. Where the weeds had piled up against the fence and the tree row, the fires naturally were scorching the trees. The farmer, so he told me, had simply gone to the house to come back with his twin-barreled Betsey and had persuaded the men to go other places fast, with the promise to shoot the first man who dared to set another fire where it would as much as burn one twig on any tree of his. He had then come straight to town to see about it. Just why he picked our office to "see about it" was explained when he said, "I saw that 'U. S.' sign over your door and thought maybe you had something to do with this weed-burning outfit." While I still believed it to be good sense to agree with him that shooting was too good for anybody so careless as to burn another man's trees, I started talking about the problems of disposing of thistles and tumbleweeds and what a nuisance these weeds must be to farmers. Gradually I got brave enough to suggest that he have a talk with the County Commissioner in charge of weed burning with the idea that this person should instruct his men to be more careful with fires and that those weeds could be burned without hurting one twig on his trees. When the farmer at last retrieved his hat from a desk tray, he had signed the cooperator's agreement for a seven-rod shelterbelt strip a mile long, and as he went out the door he said something about maybe he ought to go see that County Commissioner. I admired this man for his interest in trees - an interest which could lead him to fight for them, legally or otherwise.

Last week while scouting for seed along the country roads in Dodge County, I had all but forgotten the incident when I noticed hundreds of badly scorched trees around fields which had been burned to clear them of wheat stubble, preparatory to fall plowing. I am sure that this destruction of good windbreaks could have been avoided if proper methods had been used. Perhaps some persons do not realize that a hot grass or stubble fire will severely damage trees 20 feet away, even though the flames do not come near the tree, but for the most part, I believe it is just plain carelessness on the part of the farmer. Losing a few rods of trees from a windbreak is not felt so quickly as to have a cow or a horse killed by lightning, but the loss in dollars and cents can be much more after another season has passed.

Now every time I see trees burned to a crisp, where they should be nice and green, I think of the irate farmer and his shotgun and wish that all farmers were more like him.

- M.K.Meines, Nebr.

A PLEA FOR TOLERANCE

There is no lack of interest among the personnel of the Prairie States Forestry Project. All of us are thoroughly convinced of the worth-while nature of the Project and desire to see it progress on a sound basis. While there is a laudable spirit of friendly competition between Units, it has never militated against cooperation. We have always realized that as a Project we are no stronger than the weakest link in the chain.

There is one thing that we must guard against, however, and that is the very human propensity to think rather highly of our own ideas and to close our minds against the other fellow's. Being only human, there is among all of us a tendency to object, either consciously or unconsciously, when it is put up to us as a matter of efficiency, to replace our own ideas and practices with those developed by some one else. Initiative is a fine thing; in fact there is no progress without it. But the smart man is the one who instantly abandons even his most cherished ideas if some one advances better ones. Never does he condemn them as impractical and unworkable without giving them a fair, impartial trial.

This Project is far from reaching the stage of cut-and-dried procedure. Rapid changes in practices and standards have taken place and will continue to take place for a long time to come. It is safe to assume that those who will progress the farthest and fastest are those who are receptive to new developments, while those who are inclined toward self-sufficiency will shortly find themselves using ineffective or obsolete methods and practices.

The free interchange and acceptance of ideas and the development of standardized practices in the interest of efficiency are obviously a matter of sound administration. On the whole, this Project has been singularly free from provincialism, and it is to be hoped that the day will never come when it may be said of any of us, whether State Director, Shelterbelt Assistant, or Nurseryman, that "he can't see beyond the boundaries of his own jurisdiction." And above all things, let us not get "set in our ways."

- H.E.Engstrom, R.O.

PLANTING TREES WHERE TREES NEVER GREW?

It has been generally supposed that this is a naturally treeless country, but here comes George Mason of Elk City, who is an early day settler of this country, with this story:

Mr. Mason tells me that this country was once covered with oak timber. It was very interesting to have him tell me about breaking five eveners in one day by plowing into oak stumps with a breaking plow. George said the stumps were five to six inches under the ground and were from 12 to 18 inches in diameter and had been burned off. It is his belief that before the days of the white man the Indians would make raids and set fire to the grass to prevent the other tribes from following, and that the grass fires destroyed the forest. Perhaps a more logical cause of the fires in those days was from lightning, but that has no connection with this story.

Mr. Mason told me that these "shin oak" hills were once level with the surrounding country, and from these old stumps sprouts sprang up and sand drifted in, and as a result the sand dunes have built up and the old oak stumps have been buried deep in the sand. He says there is ample proof that trees once covered this entire country and that stumps are still found to prove his statement.

The above story was told when I presented Mr. Mason with one of the James Montgomery Flagg posters. I gave him one of the large ones for his insurance office and he requested a small one also. He said he wanted to frame the small one that it might be permanently protected.

- James W. Kyle, Okla.

SHELTERBELT RODENT CONTROL BENEFITS CROPS

Biological Survey Foreman, Mr. N. C. Brubaker of St. John, Kansas, brought in the following reports of some benefits to Reno County farmers from rodent control operations in connection with Forest Service tree strips.

"Rodent control operations have increased the value of my place \$1000," declares Mr. Lightner, who has a very sandy piece of land four miles south of Turon, Kansas, on which is planted three up-and-coming Forest Service shelterbelts. He further says, "Before there was any poison put out here the sand rats (kangaroo rats) were so bad that I couldn't drive a tractor through the field. First one wheel would drop into a sand rat hole, and then the other. The rabbits were so bad that they would take almost one-half of what I raised. One year the rabbits took two-fifths of my acreage of wheat. For the past two years I have put out poison furnished me by the Biological Survey. Now there is not a sand rat on the place, and I can work the entire farm without the tractor falling into sand rat holes. This year I raised a good crop of wheat without the rabbits taking any of it."

Another cooperator, Mr. Cadberry, who is located six miles south of Sylvia, Kansas, proclaims, "I tried to keep track of the rabbits killed by the poison, but they were so numerous that I had to give up. What rabbit poison I put out on my tree strip saved me more than \$100 on my wheat this year."

Mr. W. N. Phillips, located two miles southeast of Sylvia, Kansas, says that the rabbit poison not only protects his tree strip, but that it is necessary to get rid of the rabbits if he raises any watermelons.

Who said there is no immediate benefit from windbreak tree plots?

- Frank Sampson, U.S. Biol. Survey

PROGRESS OF THE WESTERN RANGE SURVEY

The objective for the WRS in 1937 is to compile complete range survey data for at least one county in each of the Plains States and as much additional information as may become available. This compilation means the recording of carrying capacities, recommended and existing improvement practices, etc., for all range lands within the counties by legal subdivisions (sections) in tabular form and on one-inch county base maps.

These data are secured from the field surveys of several Government agencies which are operating in this region, viz., Soil Conservation Service, Technical Cooperative Bureau of Indian Affairs (popularly known as the TCBIA), Resettlement Administration, Forest Service, State Agricultural Experiment Stations and Agricultural Adjustment Administration, through its Range Conservation Program.

The Soil Conservation Service, in addition to its project work, has been selected to survey the range lands in Frontier County, Nebraska; Greenwood County, Kansas; and Osage County, Oklahoma, for the Western Range Survey. Work was initiated in Greenwood County in May and it is expected that all three counties will be completed some time this fall. Mr. Ray E. Penn from the Salina office of the SCS is Chief of Party for this work. Aerial photographs of the three counties which have been secured greatly facilitate the accurate and economic progress of the job.

The TCBIA, under the immediate direction of Paul B. Lister (formerly of the Forest Service) is making a complete range survey of the Rosebud and Pine Ridge Indian Reservations in South Dakota. This project is expected to be completed by the first of the year and will include complete coverage of Todd, Mellette, Washington, Washabaugh, Shannon and Bennett Counties. Aerial photos are available for this area and greatly facilitate the field and office work. On the average, an examiner will complete eight sections per day with the photographs as compared to four sections where plane table mapping is necessary.

The Agricultural Experiment Station of the University of Nebraska is cooperating with the WRS by making a range and vegetative survey of the Valentine Lakes Migratory Waterfowl Refuge of the Bureau of Biological Survey. The field data will be turned over to the WRS sometime in September. Drs. Keim and Frolik are actively cooperating with this project and Weldon Shepherd is the Chief of Party.

The Resettlement Administration is making surveys of Hartley and Dallan Counties, Texas, and these data will be available for compilation before the end of the year.

The Range Conservation Program of the AAA is furnishing considerable survey data for the WRS in North Dakota and Kansas. The majority of the counties in these two States have AAA-RCP survey data available and it is expected that a considerable proportion of these will be compiled in addition to complete coverage of Pierce County, North Dakota, and Finney County, Kansas.

The six experiment stations in the Plains States are collaborating with the project by furnishing valuable information pertaining to technical range management, and are also building up bibliographies of range and pasture research and management data.

The WRS is concerned only with the office compilation of survey data and has no parties in the field to secure such information. The primary function is to act as a correlating agency which tabulates and records the information in such a manner as to make it readily usable by all agencies. Standards of procedure and methods for field surveys have been prepared and are in effect, which result in uniformity of range surveys by all organizations.

- J.C.Baird, R.O.

TREE-MINDEDNESS

It is not difficult to find in this part of our country landowners who never heard a sawmill whistle and never cut firewood, fence posts or cow yokes from a woods pasture. These good men had no saplings to climb when they were kids and know nothing about what all kids can do with sapling bark, green switches, and grapevines.

They represent a contrast to their fathers and grandfathers who migrated to this country long ago. They knew trees and loved them. They knew nothing about hot winds or wind erosion until they moved out West. They figured that lack of timber had a lot to do with the situation, but their ideas regarding what to do about it were pretty rudimentary.

A landowner who moved out here from a timbered country about ten years ago had the following to say on the subject recently;

"You Government men who come in contact with us farmers can do us the greatest good by telling us the value of trees and of the different kinds that will grow in this country. I've thought trees, dreamed trees, and loved trees lately more than in all my life before and it's because I got a little bit interested last spring and had you plant a strip on my place. We will have to have tree-minded people before we can check wind erosion and hot winds, but most of us are too busy to think about something we don't know anything about, and we just won't do it unless some friendly fellow with enthusiasm and knowledge tells us in such a way as to start the gray matter working in our heads. A little bulletin with a few pictures in it telling about the usefulness and value of different kinds of trees that will grow and that the Government will plant in this country would do lots of good. I'd like to have some to distribute in my settlement because most of us have been out here so long we don't know sumac from sassafras."

- L.W.White, Okla.

SCALPED BY THE WHITES

Entering the "Dust Bowl" is gradual. At first the wheat looked short and burned, with little raised patches of green; the pastures became scant and changed to the dull, flat, rolled look of withered pepper grass and Poor Joe. We examined the May ranges closely and found in a bare pasture only .02 density and tiny, dead crowns of grama and buffalo grass, maybe one-fourth inch across, spotted three or four inches apart on the dry dirt. In an adjoining pasture the density was as high as .30; less than one-half of the fairly large grass clumps were dead, and it was apparently ready for a quick revival if there should be plenty of rain. Moral: Overuse caused more of the pasture depletion than the drought.

At the intersection of Highway 160 with the road south from Lamar, fields had blown out to the depth of the plowing and the topsoil was drifted into the corners, against fences and houses, and in great humps over piles of Russian thistles that had caught on prickly pear clumps. The pastures were covered with dirt and bare as a bone; the houses deserted and no stock. We found an occasional tiny new weed but the aspect of the whole landscape at that point was the dusty brown of loose dirt.

The Pruitt family on the corner was able to stay because of work in Lamar. They spend their Sundays searching for arrowheads exposed by the blowing, and they hope for rains enough to plant again in the now powdery earth. The local people blame it on non-resident big-scale wheat farming that exposed too extensive areas to the accumulative, soil-lifting force of the sweeping winds. It was Dr. Shantz's opinion that the "Dust Bowl" should revert to a natural grass-covered stock-raising country and that not over ten percent of the land should be cultivated for producing the needed supplemental feeds; that the plowed part should be strip-cropped and should be only the irregular, naturally protected depressions.

Contour furrowing and terracing of the land were well under way, but the furrows had blown level with dust, perhaps in protest against this last scratching on the High Plains' face.

- D.A.Arrivee, R.O.

NORTH DAKOTA MAKES NEGOTIATIONS PLANS

Plans for handling the new land negotiation publicity campaign were formulated at a conference of field officers held at Jamestown on August 4, 5, and 6. Three districts were designated to handle a 600-mile planting program, with offices at Minot, Devils Lake, and Valley City.

The Minot district will enclose an area in which no previous shelterbelt plantings have been made. This new area lies outside the former shelterbelt zone and is now being developed as a result of frequent requests and letters from active civic organizations.

The work plan to be followed in this new area has been divided into four steps:

Step One: Arousing of local interest through contact with County Agent, Chamber of Commerce, local influential business men, radio talks, and talks at local civic and rural organization meetings.

Step Two: Presenting program to farmer through community meetings called by County Agents, placards prepared by Chamber of Commerce, petitions circulated by merchants and signed by farmers requesting that the area be designated as a concentration area, participating in conservation meetings, and current articles giving facts and progress of work.

Step Three: Receipt of applications. News articles stating definite date and place at which applications will be received at community meetings called for the specific purpose of receiving applications, circularize farmers through County Agent to have farmers submit applications early, news articles listing names and addresses of farmers who applied on previous day, news articles giving comparison of applications received from other districts.

Step Four: This last step will consist of the determination of boundaries of working areas for the 1938 planting program. It would be desirable to have the quota of miles divided into several smaller areas from the standpoint of economy and efficiency of operation. This, no doubt, will automatically develop itself as it cannot be conceived that 200 miles could be sufficiently concentrated in a group to make a single concentration area.

The Minot district will open its district office approximately August 9 with E. C. Wilbur, Jr. Forester, in charge, and Merrill Willson as District Assistant.

- E.C.Wilbur, N.D.

WILL OKLAHOMA NOW DISCOVER BEARS RAIDING SHELTERBELT BEE-TREES?

A certain number of birds may be nesting in shelterbelt trees in Oklahoma, concedes Ralph Johnston of Kansas, provided they can get far enough away from the ground to avoid molestation by skunks and foxes, but it is up in the Sunflower State where the feathered tribe really goes in for staking out claims in the strips in a big way. Many of them must be Oklahoma birds, Ralph thinks; they do not sing as sweetly as the natives, and their feet seem to be better adapted to perching on telephone wires than the boughs of trees. However, the latchstring hangs outside, as far as Ralph is concerned, though he warns that visitors from the stunted growths to the south

should content themselves with nesting sites in the lower branches. Only the other day a newly hatched birdling nearly came to grief through falling from the nest. Fortunately, in this case the nest was in the very top of the tree, and the distance to the ground was so great that the fledgling had time to grow a set of wing feathers before it reached the ground, and thus was able to zoom upward out of danger in the nick of time.

All available home sites are taken in 1935 and 1936 plantations, but Ralph promises to have plenty of 1937 planted trees big enough for nesting purposes next spring - if he can keep the farmers from cutting them for fence posts this winter.

KANSAS THINKS FUTURE IS BRIGHT

This organization never has had a greater opportunity nor a brighter future than it has today. For the first time in three years, the trees planted in Kansas have had close to normal rainfall and while grasshoppers have been numerous they have not seriously damaged the trees. We have strips this year to show to the public which demonstrate the fundamental value of our work, and everywhere we hear words of commendation from the public regarding our accomplishment in establishing trees in the face of almost impossible climatic conditions.

The program this year is a very meritorious one. We have a uniform strip of ten rows, and we have real reasons for the inclusion of every one of them. We also have the various species in sufficient quantities in the nurseries of Kansas so that we can deliver to the Districts a balanced composition that will fill these belts with the proper trees. Only in conifers are we going to be short, and knowing Kansas farmers as we do, we know they will reserve the spaces for the conifers until we can deliver them. This balance in composition is going to be of great help and we will not have to fill three rows with cottonwood and four with honeylocust this season as we sometimes have in the past.

The demonstrations that we have established over the planting area are assisting us with the negotiation program and we feel confident that by proper management we can capitalize on them in such a manner as to make real progress in community development. Also, soil blowing continues to be a major threat to crop production in this area. Many temporary measures have been used and are good as such, but this program represents the key to the permanent solution of the soil-blowing problem within our planting zone and it is for us to capitalize on this truth.

Then, too, we have an experienced organization of workers to carry the responsibility of the program this year. It is only one-third as large as it was two years ago but it is far more effective than it ever has been, and in every district and on every nursery there are workers who know the job and who can be depended upon. All of these things will improve through the years, of course, but it is our humble opinion that we have come a long way in a mighty short time.

- T. Russell Reitz, Kans.

SUBSOILING GREATLY INCREASES TREE SURVIVAL IN PLAINS REGION

Tree planting in the Plains region because of the severe climatic extremes is a somewhat risky undertaking and can be done successfully only if care is taken to conserve moisture. In addition to cultivation during the first few growing seasons, careful planting is extremely important.

One of the newest developments along this line is the application of subsoiling, a practice long used in fruit culture. This was done on a large scale during the spring planting season of 1936 by the United States Forest Service in the Plains region in connection with the establishment of shelter-belts. The results were very gratifying.

The method consists of loosening the soil (lifting but not turning it over) in a band about 8 to 10 inches wide and 12 inches deep. This is accomplished by means of a narrow lister bottom drawn by a tractor. A "packing" device attached directly behind the subsoiler helps to fill up the narrow trench left by the latter and to level the ground surface thus avoiding excessive looseness and subsequent drying out of the soil. The subsoiling is usually done in parallel lines, 8 feet apart, along which the trees are planted; the areas planted in most cases have previously been plowed.

The results of an experiment carried on by the Station during 1936 to bring out the advantages of this method are strikingly demonstrated in the accompanying table. Subsoiling was done on February 27 and the area planted on February 28 and March 2. To eliminate any error due to variability in planters, trees of the same species were planted by the same man in both subsoiled and unsubsoiled rows.

Effect of Subsoiling on First-Year Survival
and Growth of Trees Planted on Fine-Textured Soils
Mangum, Oklahoma

Age and species : of planting stock	Subsoiled rows				Rows not subsoiled			
	No.	Average:	Vigor:	Survival:	No.	Average:	Vigor:	Survival
	trees	height:			trees	height:		
	planted:	October 1936			Planted:	October 1936		
		feet		percent		feet		percent
1-0 Osage orange	270	1.5	Good	64	239	1.0	Poor	30
1-0 Honey locust	248	2.5	Good	87	246	1.5	Fair	59
Cottonwood wildings	243	3.0	Good	24	248	2.5	Good	1
Average survival				58.3				30.0

As can be seen from the table, subsoiling increased average survival of the trees about 30 percent. In addition, height growth was markedly greater and vigor generally better than that of trees in unsubsoiled rows. Speed of planting was increased by about 30 percent, and subsequent root studies showed that trees in subsoiled rows invariably had a wider, and sometimes deeper, spread of roots.

- Technical Note, Lake States F.E.S.

: NORTH DAKOTA NOTES :

The State Director has been asked to give a period of instruction at the meeting of Smith-Hughes vocational agriculture instructors to be held at the Agricultural College, Fargo, the week of August 16. At this meeting there will be 45 Smith-Hughes instructors from over the State. The "Forestry for the Great Plains" pamphlet will be used, as well as a specially prepared mimeographed sheet giving the details of strip shelterbelt plantings in North Dakota. It is anticipated that a great deal of good will come from this, which will be especially applicable to those instructors living in the three new districts.

A meeting of the Sargent County Planning Board will be held at Forman on August 10 where the State Director will aid the board in formulating plans for tree planting in that county. Dr. Lavine, Consultant of the State Planning Board, advised Mr. Cobb that this county is the first one to get together for a county-wide planning program. It contemplates complete tree snow fences for all State and county roads as well as setting aside blow areas for permanent forest plantings. Should a fourth district be decided upon in this State, Sargent and the adjoining counties of LaMoure, Dickey, Ransom and Richland would be set up for this district.

A matrimonial epidemic seems to have hit the personnel in North Dakota the last few months. The latest announcement comes from Mr. Aubrey J. Arthurs, District Officer in Devils Lake, who was married on June 26 to Miss Maxine Yeager of Redfield, South Dakota, in the home of the bride. The Unit wishes the newly-weds much happiness.

Harry Ebel, our Executive Assistant, and his wife are enjoying a well-earned vacation. They spent a week at a Minnesota lake, visited in Duluth, and also planned a trip to Great Falls, Montana before returning to Jamestown. We know they are having a grand time and envy them the coolness of northern Minnesota.

Al Williams and his family are also vacationing, having left August 7, to be gone the balance of the month. They, too, plan a sojourn in northern Minnesota and may jaunt over to their old "stamping grounds" in Idaho before returning to Jamestown.

Olive Peterson, Senior Stenographer, is on leave, having left August 7. She planned to go to Seattle, Washington and join her sister on a boat trip to Skagway, Alaska. She will be gone about a month, and such a trip should be a real experience.

: KANSAS NOTES :

Following receipt of the policy letters, cooperative agreements, and other negotiation information from the Regional Office, a conference was called during the period July 19 - 23 of all of the Field Officers now assigned to this Project in Kansas. The future program was discussed, districts were established, quotas assigned, tentative plans for concentration districts were made, seed quotas were assigned, and methods of collection

discussed. Allotment estimates were prepared by each field officer covering the work outlined for the first half of the 1938 Fiscal Year. Considerable emphasis was placed on the fiscal part of the work looking toward a reduction in number of vouchers wherever possible. Those in attendance from the field were as follows: Jerome Dahl, Lincoln, Nebraska; Karl Ziegler, Coldwater; Ralph V. Johnston, Kinsley; Glenn W. Spring, St. John; Robert A. Dellberg, Pratt; Frank Sampson, Biological Survey, Pratt; John T. Rogers, Hutchinson, and Raymond Buskirk, Manhattan. During the week an organization-wide picnic was held at Sunset Park with 42 persons in attendance. All in all there was an optimistic feeling among all the organization as to the future of the work in this State.

Miss Mary A. Mullen, Junior Stenographer in the Kansas Office, is now on two weeks' annual leave at the home of her parents at Broken Bow, Nebraska, and will spend some time in the Black Hills of South Dakota. Mr. and Mrs. Karl Ziegler are on two weeks' annual leave at St. Paul, Minnesota, and are expected to return August 12. Mr. Ziegler will assume the management of a new District with headquarters at Hutchinson upon his return from leave. Glenn Spring has had a one-week vacation during the last of July, and Mr. Dellberg spent one week at Holdredge, Nebraska during July. Plans for other members to take some annual leave have been made and every member of the organization will probably take some leave before September 15.

The Range Conservation Program continues to constitute a major activity for the Kansas organization. Twelve examiners are assigned to the field examination work and two Junior Range Examiners have been serving as Instructor-Inspectors. This program will be completed about the last of September, from present indications. The work in the eastern two-thirds of the State is rapidly nearing completion, but most of the work in the western part of the State remains to be done. Moisture conditions continue to be very unfavorable in much of western Kansas and the program was delayed just as much as possible in that section in the hope that rainfall would come and that the grass would revive. It seems almost a certainty that further deterioration of the range on many of these lands will be noted, since the lack of adequate rainfall continues.

In a report dated March 1937, the WPA reports the progress made on the Works Program. For the week ending February 20, 1937, of all agencies operating in whole or in part on ERA funds and employing more than 20,000 persons, the WPA itself had the largest percentage of persons at work who were certified, and the Forest Service ranked second. The WPA had 94.9 percent of their total employment from certified persons, while the Forest Service had 91.7 percent of certified employment.

Mr. Robert L. Bennett, Senior Administrative Assistant, recently paid Kansas a visit and helped us out with some of the jobs necessary to close the fiscal year. Mr. Bennett has been on detail to the Regional Office for an extended period, and we are always glad to have him return even if for only a short period.

Cost of Osage orange seed may be high in Kansas this year. Someone discovered that Osage orange balls, or apples, were an excellent repellent for crickets, which have been even more numerous and destructive to stored clothing than moths. As a result the price of Osage orange balls now ranges from three to six for a quarter.

It is interesting to note the progress that the 1937 plantings have made under favorable conditions. Many of these strips have trees four to five feet tall and are farther advanced than some of our 1936 plantings.

Much credit must be given these 1937 cooperators, who were sold on the basis that the responsibility for cultivation was theirs and that the Forest Service would stand by to help only in emergencies. As a result, these plantings have in general received better care than the 1936 strips.

It is much easier to implant this idea of cultivation in the minds of the cooperators at the time the strips are negotiated than to train them or force them to it afterwards.

: NEBRASKA NOTES :

Mr. and Mrs. E. Garth Champagne have returned from their honeymoon trip to the Black Hills, Yellowstone, Salt Lake City and points west. Garth is back on the job at Neligh and Mrs. Champagne will join him there in a short time.

Floyd W. Houghland, late of the AAA Range Program, has been selected to head up the new district which will probably be established to include Pierce and part of Madison Counties, with either Norfolk or Pierce as headquarters. Lawrence F. Joris has also returned from annual leave and has taken over the Arnold District.

Land negotiation work was started with a general meeting of all field men at North Platte on August 5 and 6. Field men are optimistic regarding the new planting program and a drive will soon start to secure applications for the proposed 1,000 new strip miles. Local radio stations are to be used as one media to get the information to interested farmers.

: OKLAHOMA NOTES :

On July 27 the shelterbelt plantings in the vicinity of Elk City and Mangum and the Mangum Nursery were visited by Mr. W. R. Hine, Regional Office Inspector from Region 8, and State Forester Glenn R. Durrell. They were accompanied on this trip by Acting State Director Nelson.

Mr. Durrell had previously visited the plantings but was enthused over the growth and survival which had been obtained this year to date.

Mr. Hine expressed amazement at the success which we have obtained in establishing these plantings, stating that if he hadn't seen them himself he would not have believed it possible to have secured such growth and survival. He said that this was better than that obtained in Region 8, although there they were planting in the areas where trees grow naturally.

How high is a shrub? Mangum reports flowering willow in a 1936 strip which is over nine feet high. This row of willow is growing rapidly and is putting on a heavy seed crop. This seed, by the way, is its second crop. The seeds produced last year are coming up voluntarily and surrounding the strip.

Bert Butler has been taking a month's vacation in his home State of Utah, while Mr. Gosnell is now visiting in Hudson, Michigan.

: R.O. NOTES :

The members of the Regional and Nebraska State Offices joined in a picnic at Seward, Nebraska on July 25. Ole Weather Man lent an ear to our urgent pleas for a nice day, apparently, and produced a sample of weather to beat the railroad travelogues -- cool enough to whet appetites that really didn't need whetting, and to encourage strenuous exercise in the form of baseball, horseshoe pitching, volley ball, etc. The baseball game was all right, I guess, but we in the rooting section never did know what the score was or in whose favor. We suggest that next time you save one man (must have been 40 playing in the two teams) for a scorekeeper. We are indebted to the City of Seward for the exclusive use of the ball diamond. Outside of a few cases of overeating, overexertion, and overexposure to Old Sol, the picnic went over in a big way.

If you see some stranger in our office toting around a few rolls of tracing paper and an armful of T-squares, it is probably one of Range Management's new draftsmen - Mr. Curran of Waseca, Minnesota, Mr. Dilts of Oklahoma, or Mr. Hufferd of Kansas City, Kansas. Or if you see somebody looking in the corners for a tractor or two, it is likely Mr. Lobenstein, who has returned to this Project after a year's absence.

Jerry Dahl will shortly be shaking the dust of this fair city from his feet and transferring to the Texas Unit. From the satisfied expression which he has been wearing, and recalling that he has just recently been bitten by the golf bug, we are wondering if that year-long golfing climate down there -- or was it Jerry we heard the other morning profanely threatening never to try to play the blankety-blank game again?

That dreamy, far-away look you see in some of our eyes is due to reminiscing on how many blankets we slept under on our vacations, and how the brooks babbled. The general exodus seems to be toward cooler regions. Miss Bowen spent a week in Denver, and Mrs. Clark spent a week in the Black Hills. Mr. Olson has fled to Montana, and Mrs. Morey is vacationing in Colorado.

- L.E.Clark, R.O.

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: Contributors to this Palladium of Truth and Justice can save the :
: editor a lot of gray hairs by double spacing all manuscripts. A little :
: space along one margin in which to put those cabalistic symbols so dear :
: to every editor's heart would also be a veritable godsend, but at least ;
: set the old type-mill so as to leave some space in which to write between:
: the lines. :
:
: We take this opportunity to thank the many men and women who have :
: supplied the splendid material which has gone to make up PLAINS FORESTER, :
: and will gladly welcome any recruits to their ranks. :
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